

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 and 19-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-18, 20-23, and 25 are amended, Claims 26 and 27 are added, and Claim 18 is cancelled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-17, and 19-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Larson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,416, herein "Larson"), and Claims 3 and 18 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, new Claims 26 and 27 have been added to include the features of Claims 3 and 18, their base claims and any intervening claims. Thus, it is believed that new Claims 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on September 8, 2004. During the interview differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, claim amendments clarifying the claims over the applied art were discussed. The present response sets forth those discussed claim amendments. The Examiner indicated he would further review the amended claims in view of a filed response. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Claims 1, 2, 4-17, and 19-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Larson. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 are amended to recite that a "cooling unit comprises at least a wick through which the operating medium passes" and "a surface of said at least a wick is coated with a thin film of copper I oxide," as suggested by the

Examiner during the interview. The claim amendments find support for example in the specification at page 20, third and fourth full paragraphs, and in Figure 2. No new matter is believed to be added.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 1 is directed to a cooling device having a cooling unit, a condensing unit, a first tube, and a second tube. The cooling unit cools an object by vaporizing an operating medium with heat from the object and the cooling unit includes at least a wick through which an operating medium passes and a surface of the at least a wick is coated with a thin film of copper I oxide. Independent Claims 12 and 14-17 are amended similar to independent Claim 1.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 2 shows the cooling unit 2, the wick 24, the condensing unit 3, the first tube 4, and the second tube 5.

Turning to the applied art, Larson shows in Figure 2 a cooling device having an evaporator 5, a condenser 8, and two tubes 6 and 7 that connect the evaporator 5 to the condenser 8. However, as discussed during the interview, Larson does not teach or suggest that a cooling unit includes at least a wick through which an operating medium passes and a surface of the at least a wick is coated with a thin film of copper I oxide.

In addition, the outstanding Office Action indicated at page 2, item 3 that the feature of Claim 3, now added to the independent claims, is allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 1, 12, and 14-17 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Larson.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable Action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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